

Pacific Northwest Region Water Supply Update May 7, 2008

It appears that spring has finally arrived in the PN Region. The 10 day forecast calls for little or no precipitation, and high temperatures gradually rising to normal for this time of year. The mountain snowpack has begun to melt and flows will rise throughout the period. April was cool and unsettled, but precipitation was sub-par and ranged from about 40% to 80% of average. The cool weather preserved snowpack and kept April's runoff at minimum levels. Irrigation demand has also been below normal but will pick up. The region is set up for potential flood control operations in some basins because the cold temperatures of the past month have compressed the spring runoff into two months rather than three. A period of hot temperatures and/or significant rainfall would be necessary for any real threat to be realized, and those conditions are not evident in the next couple weeks. A slower melt pattern will preserve the freshet later into summer and reduce or delay reservoir drawdowns. Most reservoirs should fill or come close to filling in 2008.

	Snowpack % of avg	Water Year Precipitation % of avg	Forecasted Spring Runoff % of avg	Reservoir Storage % full	Allocations
Yakima (WA)	129	98	117	48	100%
Flathead/Hungry Horse (MT)	119	95	104	65	n/a
Crooked (OR)	n/a	101	134	97	n/a
Boise (ID)	101	102	102	65	n/a
Payette (ID)	123	104	109	60	n/a
Upper Snake (ID)	109	102	98	61	n/a
Columbia Basin (Columbia R at the Dalles)	n/a	104	99	n/a	n/a